

***Iowa Outdoors***  
**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

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**July 13, 2004**

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**IOWA PHEASANT COUNT BEGINS AUG. 1**

BOONE - The Iowa DNR's annual survey of upland game populations will soon be under way with state biologists and conservation officers driving more than 200, 30-mile roadside routes statewide between August 1-15.

The August Roadside Survey, as it is called, is the DNR's main tool to determine if the fall pheasant populations will be up or down from the previous year. Routes start at sunrise on mornings with heavy dew and are run primarily on gravel roads because of their lower traffic volume. A heavy dew causes hens to move their broods to the gravel roadsides to dry off before feeding, allowing them to be counted easily. Routes are driven over the same roads each year so the information is comparable with previous years.

According to Todd Bogenschutz, Upland Wildlife Research Biologist for the DNR, this survey is the best indicator of what hunters will find when they take to the field this fall.

"Historically, when the roadside counts are compared to the small game harvest figures, they parallel each other nicely," Bogenschutz said. However, since the survey depends on heavy dew for consistent results, hot dry weather in August can affect the results.

"The birds do not come to the roads as consistently in dry years which makes the counts more variable," he said. Final results of the survey will be compiled in late August and will be released in early September. Small game hunters interested in this year's counts can log on to the DNR's website, [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com), and receive an e-mail notification when the roadside results have been posted.

**For more information, contact Bogenschutz at 515-432-2823.**

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## **24 OSPREYS TO BE RELEASED IN IOWA**

BOONE - Iowa will once again receive ospreys from Minnesota and Wisconsin. A total of 24 of the fish-eating raptors will be placed at five sites around Iowa this week. The 42-day-old chicks are relocated from osprey rich areas to the north as a means of expanding their distribution. Ospreys imprint on their surroundings when first learning to fly and fish on their own. Surviving birds will return to Iowa to nest when mature at three to four years.

Five ospreys, gathered by personnel of Minnesota Power, Duluth MN, will be placed at Jester Park Campsite #4 by Polk County Conservation Board at 9 a.m., July 15. Joe Boyles is project contact at 515-323-5362.

The other 19 ospreys to be placed in Iowa were collected by Pat Manthey and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Linn County will place five ospreys at their conservation center at Wickiup Hill, near Cedar Rapids, at 9:30 a.m., July 15. Dennis Goemaat is project contact at 319-892-6450.

Hartman Reserve Nature Center with Black Hawk County Conservation Board will place four ospreys at their site in Cedar Falls at 9 a.m., July 15. Amber Shinn is project contact at 319-277-2187.

Boone County Conservation Board will be placing five ospreys at Don Williams Lake at 9 a.m., July 17. Missy King is project contact at 515-795-2809.

The CLEAR Project is a group of concerned conservationists working to improve the Clear Lake watershed. This group will be placing five ospreys at their site at the Iowa Regular Baptist Camp, on Clear Lake. Nelson Crabb is project coordinator at 641-357-3839.

There have been no successful osprey nests reported in Iowa this year. Jodeane Cancilla, who leads Macbride Raptor Project, reports outcome of two osprey nests in Coralville reservoir are unsuccessful. High winds destroyed a nestsite where three young were produced last year. A second nest site, established by a first year pair, was also unsuccessful.

At Spirit Lake, the same osprey pair that produced one fledgling in 2003 was also unsuccessful. A fourth nesting pair at Red Rock Reservoir did not produce young this year. Missy King, with Boone County Conservation Board, reported a nest building pair at Don Williams Lake, but the pair did not persist. This is second year of releases at Don

williams. Intense weather conditions adversely affected each unsuccessful nest site. New pairs to an area usually require a few years before successfully producing young. Surviving adults will hopefully return for renewed nesting attempts next year.

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## **SPECIAL YOUTH DEER HUNT AT SPRINGBROOK**

GUTHRIE CENTER – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is sponsoring a educational youth deer hunt at Springbrook Conservation Education Center, north of Guthrie Center, Nov. 19 to 21. The event is designed to introduce first-time hunter, aged 12 to 15, to the outdoors and the sport of deer hunting using mentors and an educational program. Registration is required by Aug. 2.

The DNR is holding a mandatory pre-hunt educational program on Aug. 14 and 15, for youth interested in the hunt. Youth hunters attending the pre-hunt program should bring a legal firearm, either shotgun or muzzleloader, five rounds of ammunition, their hunter education certificate, \$26 for the Springbrook deer hunt license, and a completed health form and liability waiver.

The special hunt is limited to 20 participants and costs \$100, which includes meals and lodging. Mentors must be 18 years old or older and must also attend the pre-hunt educational program. A background check will be preformed on registered mentors. If a youth does not have access to a mentor, the option of requesting a mentor for the Conservation Education Center staff may be arranged.

**For more information, contact A.Jay Winter, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at 641-747-8383 ext. 11.**

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## ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of July 13, 2004**

**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

**For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.**

### **Southwest**

**Viking** (Montgomery): Crappie and bluegill fishing is fair around the aerators. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver. Largemouth bass fishing has picked up in the evening around structure.

**Cold Springs** (Cass): Fishing is fair for crappies around the aerators. Channel catfish fishing is good.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Fishing is excellent for channel catfish using shrimp and liver at Boy Scout Island. Walleyes are being caught on the west shore along the rocks.

**Orient** (Adair): Channel catfish are good in evenings using liver.

**Mormon Trail** (Adair): Walleye fishing is fair drifting using night crawlers along dam. Fishing is fair for 7 to 9-inch crappies in 6 to 8 feet of water. Fishing is good for largemouth bass and bluegills. Channel catfish are good using night crawlers or liver.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Fishing is fair for 7-inch crappies in 6 to 8 feet of water using jigs and minnows around rocks and woody structure. Bass fishing is good. Anglers are catching channel catfish on liver. Fishing is good for small bluegills near shore.

**DeSoto Bend** (Harrison): Walleye and crappie fishing is fair. Walleyes being harvested are 15 to 16 inches. Anglers also are catching good numbers of largemouth bass. Carp are being caught near shore.

**Littlefield Lake** (Audubon): Drift fishing is fair for large bluegills using night crawlers or jigs tipped with night crawlers. Channel catfish fishing is good.

**Willow** (Harrison): Largemouth Bass fishing is fair in the evenings around structure. Bluegills are good along weed edges. Channel Catfish are being caught in the evenings using chicken liver.

**Southwest Iowa Farm Ponds**: Bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is excellent. A lot of bluegill can be caught using night crawlers. Remember to ask permission and clean up after yourself.

**Big Creek** (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been excellent using small hooks and worms, with fish 8 inches or larger common. Crappie fishing has been fair primarily in deeper water. Channel catfish fishing has been good using night crawlers and cut and stink baits. Largemouth bass have been caught using casting plugs, although most remain below the legal length limit.

**Lake Ahquabi** (Warren): Channel catfish fishing is good with cut and stink baits. Bluegill and redear sunfish fishing has been fair to good using jigs or hook/bobber combination with worms and wax worms. Crappie fishing has been slow to fair using jigs and minnows in deeper water. Largemouth bass fishing has been good, although most fish are sub-legal.

**Hooper Lake** (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been good using worms and jigs. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good using buzz baits and surface lures.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Bluegill fishing has been good using worms. Channel catfish fishing has been good on night crawlers and largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good using top-water and buzz baits. Crappie fishing has been good in deeper water, although fishing is spotty.

**Don Williams** (Boone): Channel catfish fishing, for fish 2-pounds and larger, has been good to excellent using night crawlers and cut baits toward the north end of the lake. Crappie fishing has been fair using minnows and jigs with most fish caught in deeper water. Bluegill fishing has been slow, but some nice fish have been caught. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair on surface plugs and crankbaits.

**Rock Creek Lake** (Jasper): Channel catfish fishing has been good along the shorelines and shallow water. Crappie fishing is fair using mini jigs with yellow skirts, in deeper water. Bluegill fishing has been slow.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): Channel catfish fishing has been good on night crawlers and stink baits. Crappie fishing has been slow to fair on jigs and minnows. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow to fair, with the best catches along the face of the dam.

**Red Rock** (Marion): Channel catfish fishing has been good in bays and coves using night crawlers and worms. Crappie fishing has been slow in the bays and coves.

**Red Rock tailwater** (Marion): Channel catfish fishing has been fair to good using traditional baits. A few nice walleye have been caught. White bass fishing has been slow in the tailwater using jigs and minnows.

**Roberts Creek** (Marion): Crappie fishing has been fair using jigs with minnows and/or night crawlers. Channel catfish have been hitting on night crawlers.

**Saylorville Lake** (Polk): White bass fishing has been good trolling crankbaits. Channel catfish fishing has been fair to good using traditional baits at the Big Creek spillway outlet. Crappie fishing has been spotty on jigs/minnows.

**Saylorville Lake tailwater/river** (Polk): White bass and channel catfish fishing has been good below Saylorville Reservoir. Flathead catfish fishing is beginning to pick up with some nice fish reported from the tailwater of Saylorville.

**Three Mile** (Union): Channel catfish are being caught with a variety of baits all over the lake. Crappies are in 8 to 14 feet of water with some being caught along the dam. Walleye fishing is good on crankbaits and leeches. Some muskies are being caught. Bluegill can be caught on small night crawlers or wax worms in 4 to 10 feet of water or in the flooded coves.

**Twelve Mile** (Union): Fishing for channel catfish is good using night crawlers or liver. Walleyes are being caught using leeches. Fishing is good for yellow bass and big bullheads.

**Icaria** (Adams): Fishing is good for catfish with all types of bait.

**Green Valley** (Union): Crappies are being caught over structure in 8 to 10 feet of water. Some nice bluegill can be caught in the shallows with night crawlers or wax worms. Channel catfish can be caught in the bays using all types of bait. Largemouth bass fishing is good around submerged cover off the dam.

**Little River** (Decatur): Some crappies are biting over rocks or in flooded trees in 8 to 10 feet of water. Catfish can be caught in the bays using liver or night crawlers. Some walleyes are being taken.

**Slip Bluff** (Decatur): Channel catfish are being caught using all types of baits.

**West Lake Osceola** (Clarke): Bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is excellent in the timbered coves and along the dam. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver.

**Old Corning** (Adams): Bluegills are biting well on the dam and in the bays on night crawlers or wax worms. Some largemouth bass are being caught.

**Pioneer** (Page): Nice size bluegill can be caught at this county area park.

**Fogle Lake** (Ringgold): Crappies can be caught in the flooded trees. Some bluegill can be caught at the west end of the dam or around the jetties. Channel catfish can be caught anywhere, especially in the rocks. The lake is currently being lowered to improve fish growth but is still good for fishing

**Walnut Creek Marsh** (Ringgold): Bluegill and crappie can be caught along the south shore and around the jetties.

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19:** Fishing on the Mississippi River Pools 16-19 has been fair. The water temperature at Muscatine on Pool 16 is 75 degrees and the river pool stage is 10.84 and is expected to continue to drop. **Pools 16-19:** Fishing for channel catfish has slowed from last week, but continues to be fair on night crawlers, leeches, dip bait, paste baits and chicken liver. White bass continue to be fair in the tailwaters and walleye and sauger fishing is picking up. Bluegill and crappie fishing has been slow to fair. In **Pool 16**, catfish have been fair on various baits. Bluegill fishing has been fair around the docks near Sunset Marina and near Credit Island. Crappie fishing has been fair near the tube at Credit Island. In **Pools 17 and 18**, the backwaters have been good for largemouth bass on spinner baits and soft plastics. Bluegill fishing has been fair in the Big Timber area on Pool 17.

**Cedar River:** Channel catfish are being caught on stink bait.

**Coralville Reservoir** (Johnson): Anglers are catching some channel catfish on dead shad.

**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Fishing is good for channel catfish on night crawlers. Bluegills are being caught on small worms fished around structure and on the weed lines.

**Hannen Lake** (Benton): Channel catfish fishing is good on chicken liver. Some bluegills and crappies are also being caught. Try worms or flies for bluegills and small jigs for the crappies. Remember no minnows are allowed at Hannen Lake.

**Kent Park** (Johnson): Anglers are catching some 10 to 14-inch bass. Bluegills continue to be caught on worms. The channel catfish bite is good early and late in the day on chicken liver and night crawlers.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Channel catfish are being caught on chicken livers. Try towards evening for best results.

**Pleasant Creek** (Linn): Perch fishing is excellent using worms on the bottom or leeches under a bobber. Some bluegills are still being caught with worms. A few nice sized walleyes are being taken with slip-bobbers and leeches or trolling crankbaits. Channel catfish are biting on live/dead bait on the bottom as well as worms under a bobber. Largemouth bass fishing has been good on night crawlers around the jetties and artificial baits elsewhere in the lake. Remember there is an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth at Pleasant Creek.

**Rodgers Lake** (Benton): The channel catfish fishing is good on chicken liver and worms. Bluegills are being taken on worms. Anglers are catching a few 12 to 16-inch largemouth bass.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Linn): A few nice walleyes are being taken on jigs and live bait.

**Lake Darling** (Washington): Rain over the weekend clouded the water a little but the lake remains fairly clear. Catfishing remains very good with the bite shifting over to the evening. Chicken liver and stink baits are still producing the most fish.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): Bluegills are now in their summer haunts. Use a small jig tipped with worm or wax worm along the outside edge of the weed beds in water 6 to 7 feet deep. Catfishing remains good down toward the dam. Cut bait and chicken liver is working best.

**Lake Belva Deer** (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing continues to be good to excellent. The fish are in the deeper water in the trees. Anglers using an ice fishing jig tipped with a wax worm are doing the best. Recent rains have brought the lake up another 6 inches, leaving about one and a half feet to go to crest.

**Lake Odessa** (Louisa): The Mississippi River started to come back up so the lowering of the lake was stopped on Saturday. Expect the lowering to resume as soon as the river level allows.

**Iowa River** (Washington and Louisa): Anglers are catching some nice catfish on stink bait and shad guts. The water level seems to be fairly stable right now.

**Skunk River** (Washington): The river is dropping very slowly should not impact fishing. Catfishing is fair to good. Try a few grass frogs as bait for some good action this time of year. There is a reason that when you scare a frog off the bank he comes back out quick and it isn't because the water is cold.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15:** The Mississippi River at Guttenberg is 75 degrees and water clarity is good with steady water levels. The gates are closed at Lock and Dams 9 and 10. With the stable water conditions, fishing has been fantastic in most areas. Bluegills are biting well in **Pools 9 to 11**. A small jig tipped with a minnow or worm is the lure of choice for this hungry panfish. Concentrate near rocky outcroppings or spillway areas for best results. Good numbers of bluegills are also being taken in backwater lakes such as Lansing Big Lake (**Pool 9**), Methodist/Norwegian and Bussey Lakes (**Pool 10**). Freshwater drum fishing is excellent using a simple sliding sinker and worm in **Pools 9 to 11**. Drum can be found in nearly any area with moderate current such as the main channel borders, wing dams, side channels or tailwater areas below the dams. Channel catfishing has also been good using stink bait. In **Pool 9**, try areas near New Albin in Minnesota Slough. In **Pool 10**, channel catfish are being caught in Harpers Slough near Harpers Ferry. In **Pool 11**, try fishing for hungry cats in Hurricane Slough near Waupeton. White bass, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass are also on feeding frenzies throughout **Pools 9 to 11**. Fish small spinners or crankbaits along rocky banks for the best action. Walleyes and even some sauger are being caught off wing dams in **Pool 11** and in large side channels in **Pools 9 to 10**. Many anglers are using a worm harness with a night crawler for walleyes. When fishing wing dam areas for walleyes, concentrate on the upstream side of the wing dam for best results. Water levels at Bellevue are 8.44 feet and temperature is 74 degrees. Freshwater drum fishing is excellent on night crawlers fished along the wing dams and side sloughs in **Pools 12 to 15**. Channel catfish are good to excellent in **Pools 12 to 15** on night crawlers, stink baits or cut baits fished in side sloughs or in the breaks around grass in the flooded timber. Largemouth bass are hitting top-water lures and spinner baits fished around woody structure, vegetation and off rocks in the backwater areas of **Pools 12 to 15**. Bluegill

fishing is good on night crawlers or wax worms fished around brush piles or vegetation and in areas of flat current in the side sloughs or the main channel border in **Pools 12-15**. Walleye fishing is good in **Pools 12 to 15** along the wing dams using crankbaits, night crawlers and leeches.

The **Upper Iowa** (Winneshiek and Allamakee), **Turkey** (Clayton) and the upper stretches of the **Cedar River** (Mitchell and Floyd) are still high and turbid.

**Cedar** (Black Hawk) and **Shell Rock rivers** (Butler, Bremer and Black Hawk): Channel catfish are biting on stink baits and chicken liver fished on the upstream side of snags. Walleye fishing is expected to improve if the river levels continue to drop through the week.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Buchanan): Water levels are dropping and channel catfish are biting on prepared baits and chicken liver. The best fishing will be around snags and outside bend areas.

**Maquoketa River** and **Lake Delhi** (Delaware): Channel catfish are good on night crawlers, stink bait and chicken liver fished along the bottom. Walleye fishing is good on jigs tipped with a night crawler.

**Meyer Lake** (Winneshiek): Bluegill and crappie fishing is good on night crawlers.

**Volga Lake** (Fayette): Fishing is good for bluegill using a night crawler suspended under a bobber.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): Bluegill fishing is good on night crawlers fished under a bobber. Largemouth bass are hitting top-water lures. Channel catfish are good on night crawlers, chubs or chicken liver fished off the bottom.

Angers at **South Prairie Lake** (Black Hawk) are catching largemouth bass on a variety of artificial lures.

**Trout** streams are mostly clear and fishable. For current trout stocking information on northeast Iowa trout streams, call the trout stocking hotline at 563-927-5736. You can also access the proposed trout stocking calendar through the internet at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) and go to the fish and fishing web pages.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

## **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Yellow perch fishing is good with anglers catching fish on the south end of the lake and south of Marble Beach. Small jigs tipped with wax worms are the preferred bait. Look for a group of boats and you will find fish. An occasional crappie is being caught while fishing for perch. Walleye fishing has slowed. Fish are still being caught using live bait presentations and crankbaits. Anglers trolling or casting crankbaits are catching fairly larger fish, but not as many. Quite a few 20 to 22-inch fish were caught this past week. Fish can be caught over rock piles and the deep weed lines. Largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing continues to be good. Anglers are catching largemouth around docks and smallmouth off the rock piles with vegetation nearby.

**West Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Largemouth bass fishing is good around the docks and deep weed lines using traditional plastic baits. Smallmouth bass fishing is also good over the rock piles. Anglers continue to catch big bluegills in 8 to 16 feet of water.



Try some ice fishing jigs tipped with a dew worm. Remember to keep the baits on the small side for gills.

**East Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Some keeper-sized walleye are being taken off the docks on slip bobbers and leeches or minnows. As a bonus, dock anglers are also catching nice sized bluegill. The channel catfish action is fast. Use traditional baits for nice stringers of fish.

**Lake Pahoja** (Lyon): Excellent numbers of keeper sized and larger catfish are being caught using stink baits.

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): Traditionally walleye action picks up in July and this year is no exception. Speed trolling crankbaits is producing good numbers of keeper sized and larger fish.

**Little Sioux River:** Channel catfish action is reported as good throughout the river system with an occasional walleye being caught.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing is good. Jig fishing with live bait or trolling around the rock reefs is working the best. Remember the 14-inch minimum length limit. Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver and dead chubs. Fish along the north shore rushes. White bass are being caught from docks, Ventura Grade, and around the reefs. The yellow bass bite is starting to pick up. Use minnows or cut bait in the early mornings along the north shore for the best action. Bullheads are hitting night crawlers fished near the bottom.

**Beeds Lake** (Franklin): Crappie fishing is good. The fish are suspended in the main basin. Drift or troll small jigs to locate fish. Crappies are 7 to 9 inches.

**Crystal Lake** (Hancock): Channel catfish are being caught on chicken liver and stink bait.

**Black Hawk** (Sac): Fishing is fair for channel catfish. Drifting skinned chubs should produce good catches during the dog days of summer.

**Storm Lake** (Buena Vista): Fishing is fair for catfish on a variety of baits. Anglers are catching a few walleye and white bass trolling after dark.

**North Twin Lake** (Calhoun): Fishing is fair to good for walleye and a few northern pike using small chubs on the bottom. Anglers are also catching a few big bluegills on small jigs and wax worms.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

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